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CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY FAILS TO MEET PLAN

In January 1950, many enterprises of the cement industry fell considerably short of fulfilling their plans and failed to deliver large quantities of cement to the construction industry. The cement industry is continuing to fall behind in February. This is due mainly to poor organization of production, bad management, and insufficient support of the enterprises by main administrations of this industry. Disorganized conditions in the operation of quarries, frequent breakdowns, and unplanned repairs of basic and auxiliary equipment are the main reasons for the lag in cement production during January. A large number of cement plants, including "Gigant" (director Znikin), "Spartak" (director Galuzo), the Katav-Ivanovsk Plant (director Krasavtsev), and other plants, are not meeting their quotas.

Another important branch of the construction materials industry, the slate industry, has also continued to operate in a very unsatisfactory manner. The Main Administration of Slate Industry has every reason to blame its main suppliers, the cement and asbestos industries, for their failure to provide the slate plants with raw material. However, conditions in asbestos-cement plants are also unfavorable for a systematic fulfillment of the production plan. Plants continue to operate without a sufficient supply of molded slate. Construction projects of the Five-Year Plan are presenting growing demands for products of slate and asbestos-pipe plants. Normal conditions should be established for an uninterrupted operation of this branch of industry.

Plants of standard housing construction, brick plants, asbestos enterprises, and workers of the nonmetallic mining industry, have all failed to deliver the required quantity of products. There seems to be no justification for this lag in production.

Enterprises of the Main Administration of Construction Ceramics (chief, Sharonov) have been operating successfully. Enterprises of the glass industry

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under the Main Administration of Glass Industry (chief, Lomtev) were somewhat behind schedule in January, but improved their operation in February and were able to meet the plan.

Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, No 15, 7 Apr 50

During the first quarter of 1950, the construction materials industry failed to fulfill the plan for production of certain important materials. There was a serious production lag in January, followed by an improvement in February and March; however, the first-quarter goal was not reached. Considerable quantities of cement, window glass, slate, brick, asbestos, and other materials were not delivered to numerous important construction projects of the USSR.

This production lag is a direct result of serious shortcomings in administration, both in plants and in administrative organizations. The reasons given for failure to fulfill the plan are climatic conditions, lack of spare parts, necessary repairs of equipment, etc.

ARMENIAN INDUSTRY FAILS TO MEET DEMANDS -- Kommunist, No 66, 17 Mar 50

The "Anipemza" enterprise is one of the largest of the Armenian construction materials industry. It has to furnish construction materials to new construction projects of the republic. However, Anipemza quarries have continuously failed to meet their production plans. For instance, during January only 22.5 percent of the plan was completed and during February only 19.6 percent.

The cement plant has not produced anything for the past few months because all four Diesel motors at the plant are out of operation, and machine tools in the machine shop have been idle since 20 January. Whereas the monthly plan provides for 500 cubic meters of stone, only 6 cubic meters of tuff were quarried in February. The plans for other types of production were also considerably short of being fulfilled.

Only 7 tons of pumice blocks were quarried in February instead of 31 according to plan. Labor mechanization is inadequate. Two excavators have been idle for 5 months because of the lack of spare parts and one of them is out of operation due to an irregular supply of lubricants and fuel oil. Electric power is not being provided. The Ministry of Construction Materials Industry Armenian SSR should take definite steps to improve this situation.

REINFORCED-CONCRETE PARTS EXPENSIVE, PRODUCTION INADEQUATE -- Vechernyaya Moskva, No 70, 23 Mar 50

One of the most acute problems in housing construction is the exorbitant price of construction parts and new materials. For this reason, construction by industrial methods is often much more expensive (sometimes by 50 percent) than the old type of construction, which makes extensive use of "wet processes."

The construction parts plant of the Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises in Kamushki is the largest reinforced-concrete products plant in Moscow. However, its production areas and equipment are not being used primarily for this type of production. During the summer of 1949, the output consisted mainly of commercial concrete and construction parts were only slightly more than 10 percent of the total output. The situation has not changed since then. Besides, the plant operates only with material furnished by the customers. If the customer supplies sand and gravel the plant operates; otherwise production is at a standstill. Technological processes at the plant are far from perfect.

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CERAMICS INDUSTRY REPORTS IMPROVEMENTS -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 56, 7 Mar 50

Shinkarev, Minister of Construction Materials Industry Ukrainian SSR, and Popov, director of the Kiev Ceramic Blocks Plant, recently visited Moscow to report on results achieved in the ceramics industry. Enterprises of the Moscow City and Oblast will in the future make extensive use of the Ukrainian production achievements. Moscow brick plants, which have been using plastic-molding methods, will this year be converted to the production of hollow ceramic blocks for walls and interstory ceilings. The production of hollow ceramic blocks helps to save about 40 percent of raw material and 30 percent of fuel, as compared with brick production. Walls made of these blocks are better heat insulators.

Kommunist, No 67, 18 Mar 50

The Yerevan Brick and Tile Plant has completed experimental work in mastering the production of ceramic water pipes made of Shengavit clay and waste products of Tumanyan rocks. Special equipment has been installed for this purpose, including a press for pipe molding and a firing kiln. Production of the new pipes is to begin by the end of the second quarter 1950.

Sovetskaya Latvija, No 70, 23 Mar 50

Enterprises of the Latvian ceramics industry have begun preparations for the summer season. Compared with former years, considerable improvements have been made in production techniques and in mechanization of labor processes. The Krustpils and Kalkane brick plants have installed new strip presses for brick molding, with a productivity up to 5,000 bricks per hour. A large vacuum press has been installed at the "Spartak" Plant. Almost all brick plants of Latvia have introduced hammer mills, semiautomatic cutting machines, mixers and hopper feeders.

NEW PLANTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION -- Kommunist, No 58, 9 Mar 50

The construction site of the Tumanyan Refractories Plant and mine is located on the right bank of the Debed River, in a mountainous region of Armenia. The plant and mine are being built for the purpose of utilizing large reserves of raw material in the Tumanyan refractory-clay deposit. Construction work was begun in the last quarter of 1945. The plant and mine are to be put into operation during 1950.

Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, No 15, 7 Apr 50

New construction materials plants are being built on Sakhalin. The Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk region is to have a slag-block plant, a brick and tile plant, and a number of lime plants.

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